Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract found on page 5 of the Preliminary Amendment mailed alongside the patent application with the following replacement Abstract, with changes marked:

ABSTRACT

~~The present invention relates to a~~ A method and system for performing motion estimation in video image compression ~~is provided~~. In ~~the method and system,~~ ~~accordance with the invention,~~ an associative memory device is used in motion estimation, and the group of the image blocks to ~~be~~ ~~the~~ processed is restricted on the basis of a mean error and the best match is searched among the image blocks using the PDE method. ~~Thanks to the invention.~~ ~~The method~~ ~~and system can perform~~ motion estimation ~~may be performed~~ via software in a regular PC environment and still more efficiently than before.

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